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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**An American Book on Fungi.**—A few months ago the botanists of the country were greatly pleased with the announcement that J. B. Ellis and B. M. Everhart, the well-known publishers of the "North American Fungi," would soon bring out a book on the Black Fungi (Pyrenomycetes) a group presenting many difficulties to the student and collector. Early in May the work was completed and sent out to subscribers. It is a thick volume of about 800 octavo pages, accompanied by forty-one excellent plates, the latter the work of the lamented F. W. Anderson.

It is unnecessary to say here that this book will be useful. It could not be otherwise. Even the possessor of Saccardo's "Sylloge" must have this American work, and no beginner can afford to do without it.

For the help of beginners a freer use of synopses would have been useful, and it is to be hoped that such will be prepared for future editions.

The descriptions are full, and spore measurements are quite generally given, with many critical notes. Some changes in nomenclature are made, the merits of which need not be discussed in the present notice. It is pleasant to notice that the exact method of citation of authorities is followed, the name of the author first publishing the species being retained in parenthesis in case of a removal of the species from the genus in which it was first placed. In this connection the authors significantly remark that "the piratical practice of omitting the first name and substituting the second in its place can not be too strongly condemned."—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

**A Study of the Oak Tree.**<sup>1</sup>—If the pretty volume by Prof. Marshall Ward, recently brought out by Appleton, finds readers enough to warrant author and publisher in bringing out others, English speaking botanists will have cause for congratulating themselves upon the progress of botanical science among the people. Here is a strictly scientific popular book, confidently put forth by the publisher, at no little expense. That it should be brought out at all is a most encouraging sign, especially as it is not written to fill "a long felt want," nor is it

<sup>1</sup>The Oak, a popular introduction to forest botany, by H. Marshall Ward, M. A., F. R. S., F. L. S., Professor of Botany at the Royal Indian Engineering College.